

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-41 are pending in this application. As a result of the February 4, 2004 Office Action, claim 29 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and claims 1-41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,689,565 (Spies). Following entry of the amendment, claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 12, 20, 25, 26, 31, and 33 will have been amended. Claims 29 and 32 will have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

The rejection of claim 29 under section 112 has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 29.

Moreover, the rejection of claims 1-41 under section 102 as being anticipated by Spies has been rendered moot by the amendment of all of the independent claims (1, 9, 20, 25, and 31). Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims, as amended, recite features that define over the prior art of record, and that the dependent claims are further allowable at least by reason of their dependency. In particular, applicants wish to focus the Examiner's attention on the following features:

(1): A repository that uses a cryptographic algorithm to apply a cryptographic key without the key being stored in memory accessible to the cryptographic algorithm (claims 1, 9, 20, 25, and 31).

(2): A repository that uses hardware to apply a cryptographic key, where the hardware also resists or prevents the key from being divulged outside of the repository (claim 1).

(3) Two repositories, one that conforms to feature (1) above, and the other that conforms to feature (2) (claim 1).

These amendments do not introduce new matter, and find support in the originally-filed application at least at: page 17, lines 16-21, and page 35, line 24 through page 36, line 17.

Dependent claims 2, 10, 12, 26, and 33 to make their language consistent with the amendments to the independent claims. The changes to claims 2, 10, 12, 26, and 33 effectuate only formal change to the language of these claims, are not made for any reason related to patentability, and are not intended to affect the scope of these claims.

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Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are allowable, and request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance.

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